

Maryland Pandemic Influenza Summit
Speaker Biographies
February 24, 2006

S. Anthony McCann

S. Anthony McCann was appointed secretary of the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene by Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr., in October of 2004.

Mr. McCann served as an assistant secretary in the federal departments of Health and Human Services and Veterans Affairs, advising the secretaries on Medicare, Medicaid, public health services programs, VA medical care and research. He also managed the departments' budgets, financial management and IT programs.

He was clerk and staff director of the subcommittee of the U.S. House Appropriations Committee, which oversees federal health, education and labor programs.

He also served as commissioner on the President's Task Force to Improve Health Care Delivery for Our Nation's Veterans and is presently a member of the Secretary of Health and Human Services Medicaid Commission.

Immediately prior to his appointment as secretary, he served as director of financial affairs for the Smithsonian Institution.

Secretary Leavitt

Mike Leavitt brings a tremendous amount of on-the-ground experience to the job of Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

He was an executive in the insurance industry before becoming governor of Utah. He was elected to that post three times before moving to Washington to serve as administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency.

Slightly more than a year ago, he took on the responsibility for leading Health and Human Services, the largest civilian department in the federal government – it has 66,000 employees and 25 percent of the federal budget.

As secretary of HHS, he is responsible for the health of all Americans and for providing essential services to those in need. Should a pandemic occur, it is HHS that the nation will turn to for leadership.

Sec. Leavitt is widely recognized as a health care innovator and welfare reformer, and his record of achievement in Utah bears this out. In 1994, the Utah legislature passed Gov. Leavitt's "Healthprint," a comprehensive, incremental approach to health care improvement in the state. A decade later, Utah has more than 400,000 additional people with health insurance, marked increases in the number of children with health care coverage, dramatically improved immunization rates and per capita cost of healthcare 25 percent below the national average.

Michelle Gourdine

Michelle Gourdine is deputy secretary for public health services for the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene. Pandemic influenza is very much part of her portfolio at DHMH.

Dr. Gourdine is a graduate of The Johns Hopkins School of Medicine, where she served her residency in the pediatrics department.

She was in private practice as a pediatrician in Mississippi until 1993, when she joined the Johns Hopkins Medical Services Corporation, Johnson Medical Center in Baltimore. Her experience practicing in both rural and urban under-served communities has given her a valuable understanding of the social issues which contribute to today's public health challenges.

Dr. Gourdine's public health career began in 1995, when she was appointed Baltimore County health officer. For the next ten years, she was responsible for the full range of public health services in an urban-suburban county of 770,000.

Surgeon General Carmona

Vice Admiral Richard H. Carmona became the 17th Surgeon General of the United States Public Health Service on August 5, 2002.

Dr. Carmona's medical career began when he dropped out of high school in 1967 and joined the United States Army, serving as a Green Beret medic in Vietnam. When he left the Army, he earned his associate and bachelor's degrees in short order and graduated from the University of California Medical School in 1979. At UC, he was awarded the

prestigious gold-headed cane as the top graduate. During his career, he also worked as a paramedic and a registered nurse. Dr. Carmona also holds a master's degree in public health.

Prior to being named Surgeon General, Dr. Carmona was the chairman of the State of Arizona Southern Regional Emergency Medical System, a professor of surgery, practiced public health and family and community medicine at the University of Arizona, and served as the Pima County Sheriff's Department surgeon and deputy sheriff.

He has held progressive positions of responsibility as chief medical officer, hospital chief executive officer, public health officer, and finally chief executive officer of the Pima County health care system.

Dr. Carmona is a Fellow of the American College of Surgeons, and is certified in correctional health care and in quality assurance.

Tom Lockwood

Tom Lockwood has been director of the Office of National Capital Region Coordination since May 2004.

Congress created the Office of National Capital Region Coordination as a distinct entity within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to oversee and coordinate federal programs and to strengthen ties with state, local and regional authorities in the National Capital Region.

Before joining the Department of Homeland Security, Mr. Lockwood was a homeland security advisor to Maryland Governor Robert L. Ehrlich, Jr. and deputy director of the Governor's Office for Homeland Security – with all the responsibilities that position entails. As homeland security advisor, he represented Governor Ehrlich on the National Infrastructure Advisory Council.

Mr. Lockwood's experience includes serving as a key leader for the Ehrlich-Steele Transition Team, a Brookings Institution Legislative Fellow, and a leader within multiple management positions in the Navy's Virginia Nuclear Submarine Program.

Mr. Lockwood also served as project manager and engineer in the private sector – including efforts in the food, chemical and pharmaceutical process industries – as well as an operating engineer in the maritime industry.

Jean Taylor

Jean Taylor is a senior epidemiologist at the Maryland Department of Health and Mental Hygiene where she has worked for 20 years in communicable disease control and prevention. Since 1999 she has led and coordinated pandemic influenza preparedness activities for the state of Maryland and is one of the principal authors of the Maryland Pandemic Influenza Plan.

Dr. Taylor received her masters in public health from Yale University and her baccalaureate from Duke. She holds a doctorate degree in public health from the Uniform Services University of the Health Sciences.

While working on her doctorate, she was a teaching fellow and teaching assistant at the Uniform Services University of the Health Sciences, developing and delivering courses on epidemiology to physicians and other professionals.

John Brooks

John Brooks is deputy secretary of the Maryland Department of Agriculture. He received his B.S. degree from the University of Maryland in 1970 and his D.V.M. from the University of the Philippines in 1974. Dr. Brooks serves on the Executive Board of the American Veterinary Medical Association and is active in the Maryland Veterinary Medical Association (MVMA). Prior to becoming deputy secretary he was a in private practice for 30 years as a mixed animal veterinarian, and established the Fork Veterinary Hospital in 1978 as a solo practice.

Guy Hohenhaus

Guy Hohenhaus is Maryland's state veterinarian and chief of animal health programs in the Maryland Department of Agriculture. Dr. Hohenhaus is an officer in the veterinary corps of the U.S. Army Reserve. He has been a member of the faculty of the University of Maryland and served as the state public health veterinarian for the state Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

Rick Alcorta

Richard Alcorta is a board-certified emergency medicine physician and – as an Anne Arundel County resident – represents the EMS-knowledgeable county physicians.

Dr. Alcorta started his EMS career as an emergency medical technician-ambulance and went on to become a paramedic in California. He earned his B.S. at San Diego State University, and his doctor of medicine degree from Howard University School of Medicine.

After completing his emergency medicine residency at Harbor-UCLA Medical Center, he joined the faculty of the Johns Hopkins Hospital emergency department.

He has practiced emergency medicine at Suburban Hospital Shock Trauma Center since 1987.

He served as state EMS director and in 1995 was appointed as the state EMS medical director at Maryland Institute for Emergency Medical Services Systems – MIEMSS.

Aris Melissaratos

Aris Melissaratos is Maryland secretary of business and economic development, responsible for stimulating and strengthening Maryland's economy and promoting Maryland as a prime location for tourism, film production and advancement of the arts.

When appointed by Governor Ehrlich three years ago, he already had nearly 40 years experience in business leadership, with a well-earned reputation as a national business visionary and corporate executive.

He was vice president of science and technology and chief technology officer at Westinghouse Electronics Systems headquarters when he concluded a 32-year career with Westinghouse. He was also vice president and general manager of design engineering and manufacturing for Baltimore Electronics Systems Group, now Northrop Grumman Electronic Systems – a unit with 16,000 employees and \$3.2 billion in annual revenues.

After he “retired,” he became a key executive with Thermo Electron Corporation and founded an high-tech start-up investment group.

As secretary, Mr. Melissaratos has streamlined operations at the department by taking a regional approach to economic development and played an instrumental role in creating business-friendly environment in Maryland.

Richard Steinke

Richard Steinke is the deputy state superintendent for the Office of Instruction and Academic Acceleration at the Maryland State Department of Education. He is the primary link between MSDE and local school districts in the areas of curriculum and instruction to ensure the flow of communication on federal and state programs and technical assistance and training.

He is also responsible for leading the schools' response to a pandemic.

Mr. Steinke was a public school teacher in the Baltimore City and a team leader in the office of staff development in the Baltimore public school system. He served as assistant state superintendent for special education from 1987 until appointed deputy superintendent in 1996.